

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /060 W
-----116126 151833Z /43

R 150840Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9678
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN
AMEMBASSY BAMAKO
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY MONROVIA
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU
AMEMBASSY PARIS

SECRET NIAMEY 1192

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR NIML UR US
SUBJECT: AUDIENCE WITH CHIEF OF STATE--DISCUSSES LAGOS TRIP AND
MALI TROUBLES, AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP
1. DURING THE COURSE OF AUDIENCE TO DISCUSS MILITARY
SALES REPORTED SEPTEL (NOTAL) THE CHIEF OF STATE COMMENTED
THAT HE HAD A GOOD MEETING WITH OBASANJO AND GARBA IN LAGOS.
WITH A SLY GRIN HE COMMENTED THAT HE TOLD THE NIGERIANS
THAT NIGER-NIGERIAN SECURITY COUNCIL CONFRONTATION IS PASSE.
OBVIOUSLY HE WAS GENTLY CHIDING FON MIN GARBA WHO HAD NOT
SO GENTLY CHIDED THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER GUIRINGAUD
DURING HIS LAGOS VISIT FOR FRANCE'S SUPPORT OF NIGER IN THAT
CONTEST. KOUNTCHE SAID THAT NOTHING SHOULD EVER BE ALLOWED
TO INTERFERE WITH THE FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN NIGER AND NIGERIA.

2. KOUNTCHE DISCUSSED THE TRIP OF PRESIDENT CARTER WITH
THE NIGERIAN LEADERS AND EMPHASIZED THAT ON THIS FIRST
TRIP OF AN AMERICAN PRESIDENT TO AFRICA WITH NIGERIA AS
THE ONLY SIGNIFICANT STOP AND DESPITE THE FACT THAT U.S.

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PRESIDENT'S LAGOS VISIT MAY RELATE MORE TO NIGERIA'S ECONOMIC
SIZE AND POWER AND ITS SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP TO THE UNITED
STATES, OBASANJO MUST NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ACQUAINT
PRESIDENT CARTER WITH THE POLITICAL REALITIES OF AFRICA.
WHILE THE UNITED STATES IS PREOCCUPIED WITH SOUTHERN
AFRICA, THE SOVIETS ARE BUSY THROUGHOUT THE REST OF AFRICA.
AGAIN KOUNTCHE STATED EMPHATICALLY THAT THE SOVIET GOAL IS

NIGERIA. HE EMPHASIZED THIS TO OBASANJO AND HE CLAIMS THAT OBASANJO AGREES WITH THIS ASSESSMENT OF SOVIET GOALS.

3. THE EVENTS IN MALI ARE RELATED TO SOVIET GOALS AND HE, KOUNTCHE HAD WARNED TRAORE TWO WEEKS AGO OF THE THREAT POSED BY THE SOVIETS. KOUNTCHE SEES SOVIET SUPPORT OF THE ALLEGED MALIAN COUP PLOT CITING RUSSIAN CONNECTION IN THE MALI CABINET, E.G. CISSOKO SPENT SOMETIME IN TASHKENT, OBAS-ANJO SAID THIS SUPPORTS HIS FAVORITE THEORY THAT ONE RUSSIANROUTE TO NIGERIA IS THROUGH MALI. HE THINKS THEY ARE GETTING CLOSER.JAMES

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 mar 1978
Decapton Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decapton Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NIAMEY01192
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780115-0700
Format: TEL
From: NIAMEY
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780366/aaaacdjoj.tel
Line Count: 73
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e14dcec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3324715
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUDIENCE WITH CHIEF OF STATE--DISCUSSES LAGOS TRIP AND MALI TROUBLES, AND PRESIDENT CARTER'S TRIP
TAGS: PEPR, NI, UR, US, ML, (KOUNTCHE, SEYNII)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e14dcec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014